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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 29 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia in reaction to the State Duma's adoption of laws on the ratification of the agreements on the establishment of integrated military bases in Georgia's occupied territories, to the opinions expressed by the Russian Foreign Minister during a high-level meeting of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly on 27 September 2011 and to the presence of a Russian delegation, headed by the Chair of Russia's Federation Council, at the "inauguration" of the so-called "President of Abkhazia" (see annexes I, II and III).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the identical letters dated 29 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Georgian Foreign Ministry in reaction to the State Duma's adoption of laws on the ratification of the agreements on the establishment of integrated military bases in Georgia's occupied territories

On 22 September 2011, the State Duma of the Russian Federation passed two laws: on the ratification of the so-called "Agreement on the establishment of an integrated Russian military base on the territory of the so-called 'Republic of Abkhazia'" (between the Russian Federation and the occupation regime it has created in Abkhazia); and on the ratification of the so-called "Agreement on the establishment of an integrated Russian military base on the territory of the so-called 'Republic of South Ossetia'" (between the Russian Federation and the occupation regime it has created in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia).

By having its legislative body formally approve such illegal and irresponsible actions, the Russian Federation is attempting to legitimize the establishment of Russian military bases on the sovereign territory of Georgia (without the consent of the Georgian Government) and is continuing its rapid militarization of Georgia's occupied territories in breach of the provisions of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. The aforesaid is further proof that Russia — by illegally suspending its observance of the provisions of the Treaty — has created the preconditions for the uncontrolled expansion of its own military forces within the Treaty's area of application.

These extremely dangerous steps, which Russia has taken in breach of its international obligations and of universally recognized norms and principles of international law, are not only a serious threat to peace and stability in the Caucasus, Black Sea and Caspian regions but also to peace and stability in Europe as a whole.

Georgia condemns Russia's actions and calls upon the international community to influence the Russian Federation and to compel it to respect its international obligations and to immediately begin to withdraw its forces from Georgian territory.

Tbilisi, 22 September 2011

Annex II to the identical letters dated 29 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Georgian Foreign Ministry in reaction to the opinions expressed by the Russian Foreign Minister during a high-level meeting of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly on 27 September 2011

On 27 September 2011, in his speech to the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, once again tried to accuse Georgia of starting the hostilities of August 2008 and once again confirmed Moscow's readiness to be "a guarantor of arrangements regarding the non-use of force between Georgia, South Ossetia and Abkhazia".

With such statements, Russia is continuing its hypocritical and self-righteous attempts to assure the international community that it is a peacekeeper and not a party to the conflict and that the Russian Government is therefore capable of guaranteeing peace and security in the region. In doing so, Moscow is once again trying to create an illusion whereby the occupation regimes it has created in Georgia's occupied territories should be considered as being subject to international law. Mr. Lavrov's statement also unequivocally indicates that the Russian Government is pursuing its attempts to establish so-called "lines of demarcation" and "exclusive spheres of influence" in Europe.

Since the day Georgia regained its independence, the Russian Federation has been continually and purposefully seeking to undermine Georgia's statehood, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and has regularly and blatantly been in breach of many fundamental principles and norms of international law. Russia cares nothing for bilateral and multilateral obligations, including provisions of the Ceasefire Agreement of 12 August 2008.

It should be noted that the Georgian Government unilaterally expressed its willingness to abide by the principle of the non-use of force on 23 November 2010. Russia has not, however, responded in kind to date. The Russian Federation is obliged to renew the commitment it made — as part of the Ceasefire Agreement of 12 August 2008 — not to use force against Georgia, but the Russian Government will, however, not be able to escape from this obligation by making statements such as the one Mr. Lavrov recently made. A commitment to the principle of the non-use of force, the establishment of international mechanisms to ensure the security of Georgia's occupied territories and the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes will be the main issues of the seventeenth round of the Geneva talks, to be held on 4 October 2011.

Mr. Lavrov's recent "peacekeeping" statement sounds particularly cynical when one considers the fact that Russia has deployed offensive forces in Georgia's occupied territories and that the Russian military is training these occupation troops, is rapidly building up stocks of armaments and is voicing a lot of military rhetoric. Everyone will no doubt remember the member of the Russian State Duma

Bagdasarov who spoke several days ago about the necessity of starting a war against Georgia before 2014.

Considering the above-mentioned facts, it is clear that the Russian Federation must — as soon as possible — renew its obligation under international law not to use force against Georgia. Only through such measures will Russia be able to slightly improve stability and security in the region.

Tbilisi, 28 September 2011

Annex III to the identical letters dated 29 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Georgian Foreign Ministry in reaction to the presence of a Russian delegation, headed by the Chair of Russia's Federation Council, at the "inauguration" of the so-called "President of Abkhazia"

On 26 September 2011, a Russian delegation, headed by the Chair of Russia's Federation Council, Valentina Matviyenko, attended the "inauguration" of the so-called "President of Abkhazia" in Georgia's occupied region of Abkhazia.

It is no secret that the so-called "official visits" to the occupied territories of sovereign States of high-ranking Russian officials are nothing more than attempts to confer an illusion of legitimacy upon the regimes which the Russian Government itself has created in Georgia's occupied territories. Such "official visits" to the regions of Abkhazia or Tskhinvali obviously change nothing for these occupation regimes. To date, Russian efforts have resulted in turning Georgia's occupied regions into an enormous military base — a major source of destabilization for the Black Sea region and for Europe as a whole.

This recent visit of the newly elected and appointed Chair of the Russian Federation Council is an obvious breach of the Georgian Constitution and of commonly recognized norms and principles of international law, as well as a violation of the sovereignty of the Georgian State. The Russian Government has once again demonstrated that it cares nothing for international obligations, and that it never intended to and never will respect any of the provisions of the Ceasefire Agreement of 12 August 2008.

The Georgian Foreign Ministry calls upon the international community to influence the Russian Federation and to compel it to respect its international obligations and to immediately begin to withdraw its forces from Georgian territory.

Tbilisi, 27 September 2011